

PENDING CLAIMS WITH ENTRY OF THE AMENDMENT

1. (As filed) A cloned and isolated nucleic acid encoding a *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B protein having greater than 90% homology to the *Bacillus cereus* sasp-B DNA.
2. (Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1 having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.
3. (As filed) The nucleic acid of claim 1, further comprising the full length coding sequence for said sasp-B protein.
4. (Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1 having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26.
5. (Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes SEQ ID NO:30.
6. (As filed) An antibody that selectively binds to the *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B protein.
7. (Amended) The antibody of claim 6, wherein the *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:30.
8. (Amended) The antibody of claim 6, wherein the antibody binds to the epitope encoded by TAGCATT (SEQ ID NO:26).
9. (As filed) The antibody of claim 6, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

10. (As filed) A nucleic acid primer that hybridizes specifically to the sasp-B DNA of *Bacillus anthracis*.

11. (Amended) A nucleic acid probe that hybridizes to the sequence 5'-TAGCATT-3' (SEQ ID NO:26) or the complimentary strand thereof.

12. (As filed) A method for the detection of *Bacillus anthracis* (B.a.) in a sample, comprising the steps of:

- (a) incubating the sample with amplification primers that hybridize to the *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B gene;
- (b) amplifying a target sequence between the hybridized primers; and
- (c) detecting the presence of amplified *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B gene sequences.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12 comprising the steps of detecting the presence of an insert having SEQ ID NO:26.

14. (As filed) The method of claim 12, wherein the method of amplifying the sasp-B gene comprises the use of the polymerase chain reaction.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the sasp-B gene primers hybridize to the forward and reverse strands of sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

16. (As filed) The method of claim 12, wherein said detecting step comprises the step of hybridizing the amplified fragment to a probe specific for the *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B gene.

17. (As filed) A method for detecting the presence of *Bacillus anthracis* in a sample comprising the step of:

- (a) incubating said sample with an antibody to the *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B protein; and
- (b) detecting the binding of said antibody to *Bacillus anthracis* sasp-B protein in the sample.

18. (As filed) The method of claim 17, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.